



Democrats' Votes Don't Match Their Rhetoric *Reyes, Hinojosa, Jackson-Lee, Gonzalez Vote Against Strengthening Border Security and Immigration Enforcement*

Democrats at today's House Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation hearing in Laredo may be talking tough about strengthening our borders and tightening immigration enforcement. But when it comes time to cast votes, these same Democrats have cast votes against measures that would improve border security and strengthen our immigration laws.

Congressmen Reyes, Gonzalez, and Hinojosa have joined Congresswoman Jackson-Lee in **voting no** to enhancing physical security at our borders; **voting no** to increasing the number of Border Patrol agents and Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigators; **voting no** to closing asylum loopholes; **voting no** to strengthening deportation laws; and **voting no** to comprehensive border security and immigration reform. And the list goes on.

House Democrats Voted Against Tougher Immigration Laws and Stronger Borders

Last year, Reps. Gonzalez, Reyes, and Jackson-Lee joined 149 of their fellow Democrats in [voting against the REAL ID Act](#) (Rep. Hinojosa did not vote on the bill). Among other things, this important legislation:

- Implemented needed driver's license reforms, making it more difficult for potential terrorists to obtain driver's licenses or state ID cards, and ensuring that states improve their data security.
- Ensured completion of the 14-mile long San Diego Border Fence on the Mexico-U.S. border next to a major U.S. Navy base.
- Strengthened deportation laws by making all terrorist-related offenses grounds for deportation.

House Democrats Opposed Increasing Border Security

Last December, all four joined 160 of their fellow Democrats in [voting against the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act](#). Among other things, this legislation would:

- Increase border security by authorizing 1,000 new border inspectors and training 1,500 additional K-9 units. Implement new state-of-the-art surveillance technology to ensure one hundred percent coverage of our borders.
- Add severe penalties for border-crossing facilitators – known as “coyotes” – who illegally smuggle people into the U.S. with little regard for human life.
- End current “catch and release” practices, where illegal aliens who have been apprehended are released due to lack of detention space.
- Stop employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

House Democrats Opposed Reaffirming Local & State Law Enforcement’s Role in Enforcing Immigration Laws

In addition to voting against the bill itself, all four joined 164 other Democrats in [voting no to the Norwood amendment](#) to the bill. This common sense amendment:

- Reaffirms the authority of local and state law enforcement to apprehend, detain, remove, and transport illegal aliens.
- Provides for local and state law enforcement training to help with this mission.
- Requires the Department of Homeland Security to submit the names of illegal aliens who have broken specific immigration laws into the National Crime Information Database.

House Democrats Voted Against Enforcing Current Immigration Law Through Law Enforcement Cooperation

In June 2005, Reps. Hinojosa, Gonzalez, Reyes and Jackson-Lee joined 183 of their fellow Democrats in [voting no on an amendment](#) to the Science State Justice Commerce Appropriations bill that would have dedicated funds to enforcing current federal law that requires government entities at all levels to comply with federal immigration laws.

House Republicans Have Consistently Increased Resources for Border Security and Immigration Enforcement

Since 1995, the Republican Congress has increased spending on immigration-related border security and enforcement from \$1.2 billion to \$12.7 billion. During

that same period, the number of Border Patrol Agents has increased from 5,000 to 12,000, yet millions of illegal immigrants have still been able to gain access to our nation. It's obvious that our nation needs a new and stronger approach to border security. That's exactly what House Republicans are supporting, and House Democrats are consistently opposing.

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